United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry | 180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3410 (NA-06-08)
Date: March 28, 2006

Subject: Emerald Ash Borer Update

To: Clyde Thompson, Forest Supervisor
Monongahela National Forest

The emerald ash borer (EAB) (*Agrilus planipennis*) (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) is an exotic beetle that was found in 2002 killing ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) in Detroit, MI; Windsor, ONT; and Toledo, OH. We want to give you an update following our EAB notification letter in 2003.

The larva of this insect feeds in the phloem and outer sapwood, creating galleries that eventually kill the tree. At the end of 2005, the North American EAB infestation covered approximately 14,875 square miles in Michigan, which includes 21 counties plus outlier infestations. Infestations have been discovered in Ohio in Auglaize, Defiance, Erie, Franklin, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Lucas, Paulding, Williams, and Wood Counties, increasing the quarantined area in Ohio to 1,297 square miles. Indiana discovered EAB in two northeastern counties bordering Michigan, but also detected additional EAB infestations in Adams and Randolph Counties, increasing their quarantine area to 331 square miles.

The abundance of dead trees and subsequent tree cutting are creating an enormous amount of firewood. Movement of infested ash firewood could introduce EAB into previously unaffected areas. Therefore, any recreation area with visitors from infested areas listed above could become the unsuspecting epicenter of a new EAB infestation.

We have enclosed another copy of our EAB pest alert that describes the insect and the type of damage that it causes. Please give this document wide distribution and encourage your staff to become familiar with this insect and its associated damage. We would like you to inform all recreation staff, including seasonal employees that work in campgrounds, since we believe that heavily used recreation areas have a high probability of becoming infested. Additional copies of the pest alert are available by contacting Helen Wassick at 304-285-1527 or by using the forest insect and disease link on your Forest Intranet site at http://www.fs.fed.us/na/morgantown/fhp/nfid/.

The EAB has become a major forest pest of ash in the Eastern United States. It cannot be stressed enough that this insect is coming, and decisions need to be made now to educate your staff and visitors to the MNF about the movement of this pest via firewood. It is hoped that at the very least a communication plan can be developed to deal with this situation. Educational information about EAB is available through this office along with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture. It is hoped that this information will be used throughout the Forest. We would also request that your personnel work with this office to identify and survey ash resources located near campgrounds and other recreational areas since these are the most likely areas for new infestations to begin. As always, if you or any of your staff find dead or dying ash trees that you suspect may be infested with EAB, please call Richard Turcotte at 304-285-

1544, or send an e-mail to rturcotte@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

JOHN W. HAZEL
Field Representative
Morgantown Field Office

Enclosures

Cc: District Ranger, Cheat RD w/enclosures
District Ranger, Gauley RD w/enclosures
District Ranger, Greenbrier RD w/enclosures
District Ranger, Marlinton RD w/enclosures
District Ranger, Potomac RD w/enclosures
District Ranger, White Sulphur Springs RD w/enclosures
Glen Juergens, Forest Silviculturist

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